



HOME SWEET HOME OFFICE

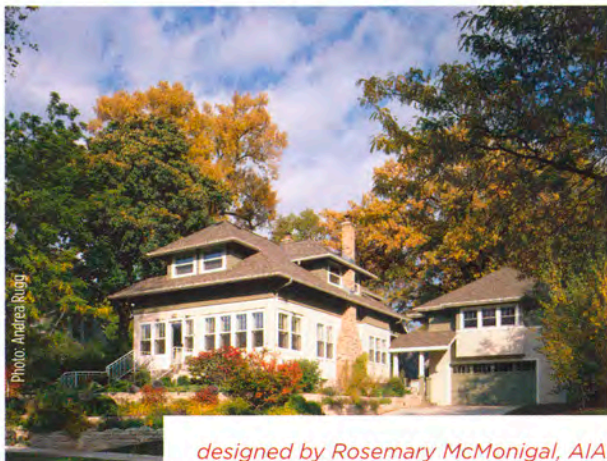
*designed by Rosemary McMonigal, AIA
McMonigal Architects
Minneapolis, Minn.*

The one-minute commute. It's a fantasy shared by many, and a luxury that's increasingly becoming a reality.

With the growing trend in telecommuting and increased flexibility of work arrangements — not to mention the exorbitant price of fuel — home-based offices are on the rise. “For the second consecutive year, architects report that home offices are the most popular special-function room they are asked to design,” says American Institute of Architects Chief Economist Kermit Baker.

One traditional option includes turning a room above the garage into a home-based office, providing that dream commute and a defined space in which to work. Comfort and customization top the list of criteria. And for those who've always coveted a corner office, now's your chance.

PARK YOUR OFFICE HERE



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CLIENT: A husband and wife moved back to the city from the suburbs to raise their children in a neighborhood with close access to schools, parks and tree-lined streets with sidewalks.

DILEMMA: While the house had classic bungalow details, the layout lacked the open flow the client desired. There was limited space for the growing family and no garage or office space.

SOLUTION: (See cover photo) Over the course of 12 years, architect Rosemary McMonigal worked closely with the client on various projects, utilizing every bit of space while remaining flexible in order to accommodate future changes the client's growing family might bring. When the house next door burned down, the client and the adjoining neighbor purchased and divided the lot, enabling the client to build a garage with a home-based office on top. Connected to the main house via an open-air, covered walkway—a nice touch on those cold, wintry days—the office is equipped with the latest video, audio and data technology. Built-ins maximize storage and conceal wires and other unsightly equipment. Multiple work areas populate the space along with comfortable seating and a large dark-wood table for meetings. Windows all around make for a space that is filled with natural light, surrounded by panoramic views of the neighborhood, and cooled by cross breezes in the summer.



**Look for our next LH&E
special edition on October 8**

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